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Pakistan's opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif (C) leaves the Supreme Court building after a hearing on Monday | AFP

PAK SC ADJOURNS HEARING ON REJECTION OF NO-TRUST VOTE

Turns down Oppn's plea for a quick verdict, saying it needed more time as its decision will have far reaching consequences

SPEAKER CAN'T REJECT NO-TRUST VOTE: CJP

The matter will be heard again on Tuesday. During Monday's hearing, chief justice Umar Ata Bandial observed that the speaker of the House can't reject a no-trust vote, even by citing Article 5 of the country's constitution. Deputy speaker Qasim Suri had claimed the vote was backed by foreign powers, and thus, it violated Article 5, which calls for loyalty to the state

IMRAN NAMES U.S. OFFICIAL WHO SENT LETTER

- Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday named Donald Lu as the US official from whom he received a "threat letter"
- Imran has nominated former chief justice, Gulzar Ahmed, as the caretaker prime minister. Imran will continue as the prime minister till the caretaker government takes charge | P11

2 months

SINCE JUSTICE AHEMED RETIRED. HIS BENCH HAD DISQUALIFIED NAWAZ SHARIF FROM POLLS FOR LIFE

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EATING OUT? SHELL OUT 10% MORE

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

WITH the rise in prices of essential commodities, including LPG, cooking oil and others, Bengalureans will now have to shell out 10 per cent more for eating out at hotels. The increase will be 5-10 per cent in other parts of the state.

The decision was taken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday evening. Association president PC Rao said that with the rise in prices of cooking gas, oil, coffee powder and other commodities and increase in rent for commercial spaces and salaries of staff, it has become inevitable to increase prices of food items. The price rise will come into effect in the next seven days, he added.

In-charge president of the State Hotels Association Chandrashekar Hebbar said the hotel industry, which was already reeling under the impact of Covid, has to deal with almost doubling of the prices of LPG and oil. Hoteliers are left with no other option but to increase prices of food items by 5-10 per cent. District-level associations will take decisions concerning their respective areas, he added.

A TV grab of resumption of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha after ruckus over fuel price hike, in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

Ruckus in Parliament over continuous fuel price hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

BOTH Houses of Parliament saw ruckus over increase in fuel prices with the Opposition demanding a discussion on the matter. While Rajya Sabha proceedings were a washout after repeated adjournments as the Opposition trooped into the Well of the House, in the Lok Sabha, the Opposition staged a walkout after noisy protests.

Sources said the Upper House may function normally from Tuesday as the Opposition wants debates on a clutch of legislations, including the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 and the MCD unification bill.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi will chair a meeting of party MPs on Tuesday morning to discuss the party's strategy for the week.

Three Rajya Sabha members K C Venugopal (Cong), Binoy Viswam (CPI) and Abir Ranjan Biswas (Trinamool) had given suspension of business notices in the Upper House to discuss the rise in prices of fuel. The chair, however, turned it down saying the issue has already been discussed during the debate on the Finance Bill and the Appropriation Bill.

"Today the combined Opposition forced an adjournment of the Rajya Sabha for the entire day on the issue of continuing hike in petrol, diesel, cooking gas, and also increase in prices of other essential commodities, especially edible oil and fertilisers," tweeted Jairam Ramesh, Congress chief whip in Rajya Sabha.

Petrol prices have been hiked for the 12th time in the last 14 days, raising its cumulative cost by ₹8.40 per litre.

Amidst the commotion, Trinamool's Derek O'Brien demanded a discussion on the women reservation bill. Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda stood to speak but could not be heard.

In the Lok Sabha, DMK members trooped into the Well shouting slogans as soon as Zero Hour began. Later, members from other Opposition parties joined in. As the chair continued to run Zero Hour, the Opposition staged a walkout.

Power tariff up by 35p per unit, effective from April 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

GET ready to pay an extra 35 per paise per unit in your electricity bill as the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Monday announced an increase in power tariff.

The average hike is 35 paise per unit, which works out to an increase of 4.33 per cent. Commission Chairman HM Manjunatha told the media that the increase comes into effect from April 1.

"Against the demand of Rs 1.85 per unit by electric supply companies (escoms), the commission has increased the tariff by 5 paise per unit and hiked the fixed charges ranging between Rs 10 and Rs 30 per unit. The overall increase in tariff per unit is 35 paise," Manjunatha added.

He said the demand of escoms was rejected as they were unable to substantiate their claim with sufficient documents and the hike was pegged at 35 paise per unit. The revision of tariff will help escoms recover a revenue deficit of Rs 2,159.48 crore, which includes Rs 1,700.49 crore deficit in the financial year 2021.

P2

Merged HDFC to be behemoth

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

HOUSING finance major HDFC will amalgamate itself with HDFC Bank in corporate India's largest merger to date, creating a financial behemoth with a loan book second only to that of the State Bank of India upon completion of the transaction in 12-18 months.

Shareholders of HDFC will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank for 25 shares they hold as on the record date, while promoter HDFC's 21% stake in the bank will be extinguished, making HDFC Bank a 100% public owned company. HDFC shareholders will own 41% of the merged entity, making the structure relatively more lucrative for them. As the 21% stake that the promoter holds in HDFC Bank is extinguished, the legroom for foreign portfolio investor ownership would widen by 7%, said Keki Mistry, vice chairman and CEO of HDFC.

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RICKY KEJ BAGS SECOND GRAMMY AWARD

Music composer Ricky Kej, based out of Bengaluru, won his second Grammy on Sunday in the best new album category for 'Divine Tides'.

| P2 & CEP1

EXPRESS READ

Mask rule may go soon in Karnataka

The state government may soon relax the mask rule, hinted Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar. Though there is no official order on relaxing the rule, 90% of the people are not wearing masks, he said. P3

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan

LBSIM

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Memorial Trust

in collaboration with

Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi

cordially invites you to the

28th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture

on

"Spiritual Values for Peace and Sustainability"

to be delivered by

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Spiritual Leader and Founder of Art of Living

Bharat Ratna
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri
(1904-1966)

Date : Tuesday, April 5, 2022
Time : 6:15 pm

Venue :
Auditorium, National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi-110011

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Leader and Founder of Art of Living

The memorial lecture can also be viewed on following links:

YouTube http://ytube.lbsim.ac.in
YouTube https://youtube.com/srisri
https://fblive.lbsim.ac.in

Prof. A.K. Das
Director,
Lal Bahadur Shastri National Memorial Trust

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